



IN REPLY REFER TO:  
NWRS711-012

## United States Department of the Interior

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. Tudor Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199



OCT 28 2010

#### Memorandum

To: Project Leaders – Region 7

From: *Acting* Regional Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System – Region 7 *Mike Boylan*

Subject: Fiscal Year 2011 and Winter 2012 Challenge Cost Share & Science Camp Request for Proposals (**Response due: December 14, 2010**)

The purpose of this memorandum is to encourage participation in the Challenge Cost Share (CCS) program for fiscal year (FY) 2011. Last year's program received over \$849,602. These funds leveraged approximately \$1,302,880 in matching contributions among 69 projects, not to mention an incalculable amount towards building coalitions, partners, and promoting wildlife stewardship. Although the CCS budget for this fiscal year may be significantly reduced, we have decided to proceed with soliciting proposals while we wait for budget approval.

Challenge Cost Share funds are congressionally appropriated monies designated for the protection and conservation of wildlife resources. Projects funded through the CCS program require a minimum non-federal match of at least 50 percent of the total project cost (1:1 ratio minimum). This matching contribution may be in the form of cash or nonmonetary contributions such as in-kind services, supplies, equipment, expertise, etc. As you develop proposals, communicate with your partners about the 1:1 matching requirements and the highly competitive nature of this year's grant cycle due to decreased funding. Each station will also need to prioritize proposals.

Unless you have prior approval, all project funds must be obligated or expended within FY 2011. A few project proposals will be allowed to be completed in the winter months (Oct – Feb) of Fiscal Year 2012. Note clearly on your proposal whether an extension through winter will be necessary to complete the project.

A regional panel will be assembled to rank CCS proposals; panel members will review each proposal and assign a score between 0 and 5. The panel will award points based on the proposal's ability to meet the mission of the Service, and/or the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The panel will consist of four or five members and will include Service wildlife biologists and a Service recreation/education specialist. I will review the rankings of the panel and make the final determination for allocation of these funds.



***2011 Science Camps Proposals***

Science camps with at least three years of successful camp operations are eligible to be funded using the Refuge System's base allocation and requiring only a 25 percent partner match. Camps less than three years-old, camps seeking expansion, or brand new camps will also be accepted for consideration with remaining base funding. Unfunded science camp proposals will be considered and ranked along with the general CCS projects if they have at least a 50 percent non-federal match. All science camps must complete a new *Science and Culture Camp Proposal* template (see attached).

Please send all CCS proposals and science camp proposals electronically, using the attached templates (Attachment 1, 2), to [kristen\\_gilbert@fws.gov](mailto:kristen_gilbert@fws.gov). On the subject line of your e-mail please state either "Fiscal Year 2011 CCS or Science Camp Proposal". All proposals are due no later than **December 14, 2010**. If a station submits multiple proposals please prioritize the project requests.

Our goal is to have the CCS and science camp selection process completed and parties notified by the end of January 2011, depending on the Congressional budget process.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions regarding any of the funding opportunities discussed above, please contact Kristen Gilbert at (907)786-3391 or by e-mail at [kristen\\_gilbert@fws.gov](mailto:kristen_gilbert@fws.gov). I look forward to another successful year of CCS partnerships.

Attachments